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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA II

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II) (A/C.5/48/40, paras. 54-60).

2. By its resolution 47/41 C of 14 September 1993, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNOSOM II at a rate not to exceed $82,700,000 gross ($81,380,000 net) per month for the four-month period from 1 November 1993 to 28 February 1994, i.e., a total of $330,800,000 gross ($325,520,000 net), subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

3. The Secretary-General now estimates that requirements for the six-month period from 1 November 1993 to 30 April 1994 will amount to $475,950,000 gross ($473,600,000 net), i.e., $79,325,000 gross per month ($78,933,333 net). In paragraph 56 of his report, the Secretary-General states that this amount reflects changes in the prior estimates primarily as a result of increased requirements for public information programmes, rental of vehicles and contractual services, as discussed in paragraph 57 of the report.

4. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the estimated cost of setting up a medium-wave radio broadcasting station, requested by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, is $2,500,000. The Committee was informed that this has not yet been procured because the one bid received was for a station which would not provide coverage to the entire country. The Advisory Committee believes that this matter deserves closer scrutiny and therefore recommends that the station not be procured at this stage.

5. The estimate includes provision of approximately $33 million for the cost of logistical services to be provided by a contractor in view of the planned withdrawal of the logistic support services of the United States of America

between mid-December 1993 and 31 March 1994. The Advisory Committee will revert to this matter in the context of its examination of the full budget report of UNOSOM.

6. In paragraph 125 (i) of his report (A/C.5/48/40), the Secretary-General requests the appropriation and apportionment of the amount of $477,950,000 gross ($473,600,000 net) for the period 1 November 1993 to 30 April 1994, inclusive of the above-mentioned amount authorized by the Assembly in its resolution 47/41 C.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimate for the five-month period from 1 November 1993 to 31 March 1994 would amount to $413,500,000 gross ($406,900,000 net), on the basis of the monthly rate authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/41 C. However, notwithstanding the reasons advanced for an increased monthly rate, the Committee believes that in an operation of this size there is room for economies. Bearing in mind the existing authorization of $330,800,000 through 28 February 1994, the Committee recommends an additional authorization in the amount of $49,200,000, thereby bringing the total commitment authorization to a total of $380,000,000 for the period from 1 November 1993 to 31 March 1994. In view of the significant cash balances available to the operation, the Committee further recommends that only $280,000,000 be assessed at this stage.